



Fillmore McPherson
First Selectman

TOWN OF MADISON
CONNECTICUT 06443-2563
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

February 24, 2014

Alfred J. Goldberg
Robert G. Hale
Diane L. Stadlerman
Joan M. Walker

To the Honorable Members of the Planning & Development Committee:

Thank you for allowing me to speak on behalf of the proposed change to CGS Section 14-33 as contained in Governor's Bill 5055. As currently written, without this change, the CGS impose a burdensome "tax" on virtually every municipality in the state.

To refresh your memory, Section 14-33 requires the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to withhold vehicle registration renewals for individuals who have not paid their annual vehicle property tax to the appropriate city or town – an excellent tool for enforcing properly levied tax bills. Unfortunately, the entire cost of DMV's operation for this service is billed back to the individual municipality based on population. This cost, covering ten employees plus benefits, totals \$858,573 for the current year. Madison's cost is \$4,374 but the cost is much bigger for our larger cities and towns. The Governor's Bill will eliminate this charge back for what should be a routine DMV service. I urge you to support and pass this change for the benefit of our strapped cities and towns.

I view this change as one small step in the ongoing review of unfunded mandates imposed on our municipalities. I have been pleased to serve for the last year on your Mandates Sub-Committee of the MORE Commission. This Sub-Committee has approved a number of changes. These include sweeping reforms such as requiring a super majority for any new mandate, all the way down to individual items such as financial relief for providing seven day advance voting. Again, I urge your positive consideration on these MORE recommendations as a means of helping our hard-pressed cities and towns.

Sincerely,

Fillmore McPherson
First Selectman
Town of Madison

FM/pra